With the sharp reduction of budgetary support for the Railways development plans, from nearly 75 per cent during the Vth Plan to only 17 per cent during 1994-95, Railways has had to depend upon funds drawn from its revenue surpluses and from those taken in market borrowing,, which is an expensive source of funding, for the execution of its Projects.

Railways have, therefore, decided to allow entrepreneurs from the private sector to participate, on a Build-Own-Lease transfer (BOLT) basis, in such projects which, on commissioning, would generate revenue to enable the Railways pay back the stipulated lease charges to the entrepreneuer. In this manner, the Railways expect to be able to execute many more developmental works than would have been ordinarily possible from the existing resources available to it.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Entrepreneurs in the private sector shall be at liberty to select the stations and make a proposal under the Scheme The entrepreneur shall be expected to carry out all scheduled maintenance and petty repairs at the station as well as keep the entire premises clean during the period of the Agreement. He shall also be expected to develop the station, by carrying out beautification/greening of the station premises, as mutually agreed to.

(e) and (f) There is already the system of private parties being authorised for the operation of City Booking Agencies and Out Agencies to sell railway tickets and book parcels. Tickets are cies and Out Agencies to sell railway managed by Halt Contractors. Under the scheme of Rail Tourist Agents and General Service Agents, private parties are authorised to sell tickets and also arrange reservations on behalf of the railways.

Electrification of Railway line from Erode to Cochin

1288. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much money was allotted for electrification of the railway line from Erode to Cochin this year;

(b) out of which, how much amount the Railways have spent so far;;

(c) wha is the percentage of work completed so far; and

(d) by when the whole work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Rs. 15.51 crores has been allotted in 1994-95.

(b) Rs. 1.44 crore.

(c) Work in Erode-Palghat portion of Erode-Palghat-Cochin section is in progress at present. About 2 per cent progress has been made upto September, 1994.

(d) Work of electrification of Erode-Palghat-Cochin is expected to be completed by March, 98, subject to availability of funds.

दादर-अमृतसर एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ी को गुलाबगंज मंडी रेलवे स्टेशन पर रोका जाना

1289. **श्री राघवजी** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस तथ्य की जानकारी है कि पिछले महीने दादर-अमृतसर एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ी को गुलाबगंज मंडी रेलवे स्टेशन पर, जो कि मध्य रेलवे के अंतर्गत भोपाल-बीना लाइन पर, एक केन्द्रीय स्थल है, रोने जाने की मांग को लेकर ग्यारह दिन का धरना आयोजित किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त मांग को कब तक पूरा कर दिया जायेगा और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और